

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5383

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 3409

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, EEC, SGEN

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF EC SOCIAL CONFERENCE EXPECTED
AFTER ETUC BOYCOTT DECISION

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 2849 B. LONDON 3706

1. SUMMARY. THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), IN A STATEMENT ISSUED IN BRUSSELS FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN ROME JUNE 16, SAID IT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE EC CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL POLICY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 28 IN LUXEMBOURG. THE ETUC TOOK THIS POSITION BECAUSE OF ITS REJECTION OF THE PARTICIPATION FORMULA PROPOSED BY THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (REF A). THE ETUC DECISION IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO RESULT IN POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE. THE EC PERMREPS ARE MEETING IN BRUSSELS JUNE 20 TO DISCUSS THE NEXT
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STEPS TO BE TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ETUC' S BONE OF CONTENTION IS THAT THE COUNCIL, FOLLOWING A PATTERN IT SET UP FOR A PREVIOUS CONFERENCE WHICH ESTABLISHED THE EC STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, HAS INCLUDED

NATIONAL UNIONS FROM CERTAIN MEMBER STATES WHICH EITHER DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION GROUPING, SUCH AS THE ETUC OR THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), OR WHICH ORGANIZE ONLY LIMITED CATEGORIES OF WORKERS. THESE NATIONAL UNIONS ARE THE FRENCH CGC (WHICH ETUC LEADERS ALSO CHARGE AS BEING A UNION WHICH ORGANIZES EMPLOYERS AS WELL AS WORKERS), THE FRENCH CFTC (A CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION WHICH IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR), THE DANISH FTF, AND THE GERMAN DAG.

3. THE DECISION OF THE ETUC, COUPLED WITH A DECISION BY THE BRITISH TUC NOT TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE (REF B), IS EXPECTED TO FORCE A POSTPONEMENT OF THE SOCIAL CONFERENCE. COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AND COMMISSION SOURCES HAVE IN FACT INDICATED TO THE MISSION THAT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN POSTPONED. THE EC PERMREPS ARE MEETING TODAY, JUNE 20, TO CONFIRM THIS POSTPONEMENT AND TO DECIDE ON THE NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN.

4. SOME COMMISSION SOURCES ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE CONFERENCE CAN BE HELD SOME TIME THIS FALL, IN TIME TO MEET THE DEADLINE OF JANUARY 1, 1974, SET BY THE EC SUMMIT LAST OCTOBER. (THE SUMMIT CALLED ON THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS TO DRAW UP A DEFINITIVE SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAM BY THAT DATE AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH TRADE UNIONS AND EMPLOYER GROUPS.) OUR SOURCES ARE HOPEFUL THAT A COMPROMISE MAY YET BE WORKED OUT WITH THE ETUC ON REPRESENTATION AT A RESCHEDULED CONFERENCE AND THAT THE BRITISH TUC WILL ALSO DECIDE TO ATTEND.
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